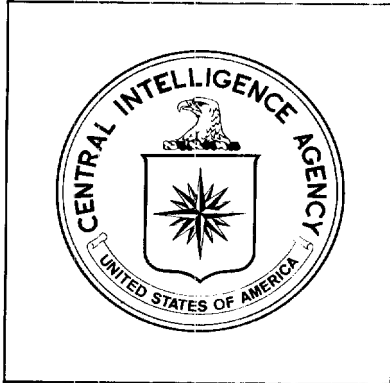


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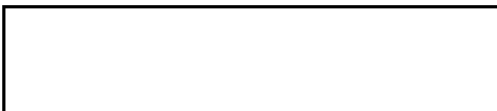
Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Sakharov Applies for Travel to Oslo

The case of Nobel peace prize winner Andrey Sakharov continues to simmer. Sakharov told Western reporters in Moscow that he has formally applied for permission to travel to Oslo for the December 10 award ceremony, and that he has asked for a "speedy reply." He was guarded about his chances for going, but said he was "not skeptical."

Meanwhile, the press is speculating that the Soviets may "expel" Sakharov by allowing him to leave but not to return. Sakharov's wife, who is slated to return to Moscow at the end of the month after eye surgery in Italy, quickly told reporters that her husband believes this speculation to be a KGB plant. The Danish press has hinted that its sources are the emigre participants in the "Sakharov hearing" on human rights in the USSR, which was held over the weekend in Copenhagen.

In Moscow, the campaign against Sakharov appears to be gaining momentum. The Copenhagen meeting and Sakharov's Nobel prize were both denounced by Aleksandr Chakovsky, chief editor of the writers union weekly, *Literary Gazette*, at an unusual press conference on Monday. The strongly conservative Chakovsky was in the forefront of the smear campaign against Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn after he won the Nobel literature prize in 1970.

The orchestration of the anti-Sakharov campaign parallels the post-1970 drive against Solzhenitsyn. Nowhere in the tangled web of events, however, are there firm signs that the Kremlin has decided how to deal with Sakharov's case, or, for that matter, with that of non-dissident Soviet economist, Leonid Kantorovich, the co-winner of the Nobel economics prize. Kantorovich's award was reported without comment in *Pravda* on October 18.

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Last week Sakharov's wife was reportedly warned by Soviet diplomats in Italy against further "political activity"--a probable consequence of her press conference following the Nobel award to her husband. "Political silence" reportedly was the major condition imposed by Soviet officials in return for finally granting her repeated requests to go abroad for medical treatment. Her continued statements to the press could mean that she considers the warning a prelude to being barred from returning home--something she and her husband may be trying to prevent by ensuring a continued high level of Western attention to their cause.

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Yugoslavia: Crackdown Nears

Tito may soon move decisively against his domestic opponents with pro-Soviet, Stalinist elements as his principal target.

Widespread rumors in Belgrade claim that a major show trial of so-called Cominformists will take place in the near future. An East European diplomat has told the US embassy that one or two "prominent personalities" are due to be arrested for Cominformist activities.

In mid-October the top party leadership met to discuss domestic subversion. The party simultaneously issued a stern warning in its weekly *Kommunist* both against unconscious supporters of Stalinism and those who actually "follow the road of national betrayal and counterrevolution." In the past the latter charge has presaged very stiff punishment of dissidents.

The threat of a major purge has been growing since last summer, when Tito gave the internal security department heads unspecified "specific tasks" for the future. With the recent examples of Portugal and Spain presumably in mind, the 83-year old President may well be determined to clear the slate, before it is too late, of those regime opponents hovering on the fringe of outright opposition.

In addition to Stalinist subversives--twelve more of whom have reportedly been arrested--the likely candidates for arrest include supporters of Tito's former heir-apparent, Aleksandr Rankovic, and possibly a sprinkling of pro-Western liberals like Milovan Djilas.

The pro-Western dissidents would be included in the sweep for both domestic and foreign reasons. At home, Tito does not want any moves against Stalinists

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to raise the hopes of the liberal reformers he sacked in 1972-1973. Externally, Belgrade presumably wants to avoid any serious deterioration in relations with Moscow which are already strained by differences over the European Communist conference preparations and improving Yugoslav-Chinese ties.

There is little doubt, however, that the main focus will be on real or potential domestic sources of Soviet influence. The Yugoslavs might even be tempted to include Vlado Dapcevic, an emigre exile who has known Soviet connections, in a show trial. Dapcevic was reportedly kidnaped by the Yugoslav secret police while he was on a recent visit to Romania.

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Korniyyenko Appointed
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Georgiy M. Korniyenko, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's USA Department since 1966, has been promoted to the rank of deputy foreign minister. Korniyenko told Ambassador Stoessel that he will continue to deal exclusively with US-Soviet relations. Since the eight other deputy foreign ministers have more generalized responsibilities, Korniyenko's promotion without change of function is unprecedented and would seem to indicate the importance the Soviet leadership attaches to its relationship with Washington.

The promotion also reflects the leadership's high regard for Korniyenko himself. A fellow deputy foreign minister, V. S. Semenov, in a conversation with a US official earlier this month, commented that Korniyenko was a man "strong in battle" who wielded more influence on the Soviet leadership than his bureaucratic position as department head would suggest.

Korniyenko served as minister counselor at the Soviet embassy in Washington in the early 1960s and has been a member of the Foreign Ministry's collegium since 1966. He will continue to serve in the latter body but will probably no longer head the USA Department. The 50-year old Korniyenko has served in the Foreign Ministry since 1949.

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Romania: Higher Gasoline Sales to the US

Romania wants to increase sharply its gasoline exports to the US. Officials of the government agency Petrolelexport are negotiating with a US ship broker for monthly deliveries of 50,000 to 75,000 metric tons of gasoline, equivalent to 6 to 9 percent of US imports during 1974. To improve prospects for the sale, Bucharest reportedly has offered a 90-octane product at about 4 percent less than the prevailing rate in Rotterdam.

Romanian exports of gasoline to the US dropped sharply during the first half of this year, largely because of the US recession and conservation measures. During that period, Romania sold an average of less than 4,000 tons a month to the US. Romanian gasoline sales in the US last year were about 31,000 tons monthly. Sales for 1975 will be less than half of last year's, even if current negotiations are successful.

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